

Appl. No. 10/027,153
Reply to Office Action of May 16, 2007

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER Page 5

AUG 15 2007

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

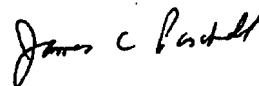
In reply to the final Office Action mailed May 16, 2007, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance. In the application, claims 11-20 are allowed, claims 1, 5 and 6 are rejected and claims 2-4 and 7-10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. In reply, applicants have amended claims 1, 4 and 9 and canceled claim 3. Claims 1, 2 and 4-20 remain pending in the subject application.

The final Office Action objected to claims 2-4 and 7-10 for dependency on a rejected base claim but indicated these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate all of the limitations of claim 3 which had been deemed allowable and had been directly dependent on claim 1. Because claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form as claim 1, applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable. Applicants also respectfully request entry of this amendment after a final rejection because it makes the claims comply "with a requirement of form expressly set forth in" the previous Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(b)(1).

Claim 3 has been canceled in favor of claim 1 and the dependency of claim 4 has been amended from claim 3 to claim 1. Claim 9 has also been amended to avoid redundancy with claim 2 by adding the limitation of claim 4. For at least the same reasons that claim 1 is patentable, applicants respectfully submit that claims 2 and 4-10 are also patentable.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and issuance of a notice of allowance for all of the claims 1, 2 and 4-20 pending in the subject application. Should the Examiner have any further concerns regarding this matter, she is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



James C. Paschall
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 36,887
(847) 391-2355 (phone)
(847) 391-2387 (fax)

JCP/gm